

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
923 FIFTEENTH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

Telephone: 1200 663 9705 Telecopies: 1200 737 7565

December 4, 1998

## HAND DELIVERED

Alva E. Smith, Esquire
Altorney
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

Re: Matter Under Fleview 4830

Dear Ms. Smith:

Enclosed please find the response to the complaint in the above captioned matter under review filed by DRIVE and its treasurer, as well as the supporting Declaration of Mr. Charles Harple.

Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely.

David E. Frulla

Fuller law

DEF/amu

**Enclosures** 

## BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of:	)	
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	)	Matter Under Review 4830
	)	
Udall for Us All Committee, et al.,	)	
	)	
Respondents.	)	
	)	

## RESPONSE TO COMPLAINT BY THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS? DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN INDEPENDENT VOTER EDUCATION POLITICAL FUND AND ITS TREASURER

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters Democratic Republican Independent Voter Education Political Fund ("DRIVE") and its treasurer, Mr. Tom Sever (collectively, "Respondents"), respectfully submit the following response to the complaint filed in the above-referenced matter under review. For the reasons set forth herein, DRIVE respectfully requests that the Commission dismiss this matter under review as to it. Complainant has incorrectly alleged that DRIVE violated the law.

More specifically, the Republican Party of New Mexico, and its chairman, Mr. John Dendahl (collectively, "Complainant") filed a complaint against Mr. Tom Udall, the former Attorney General of New Mexico and now a U.S. Representative-elect, and his campaign committee, the Udall for Us All Campaign Committee ("Udall Committee"). The complaint alleges that the Udall Committee accepted contributions for its June 2, 1998, primary election

after the date of the primary election had passed, in violation of 11 C.F.R. § 110.1(b)(3)(i). The complaint further alleges that DRIVE made one of these allegedly illegal contributions.

Under federal campaign finance law, however, a candidate's principal campaign committee may accept a contribution for a previous election to the extent of the committee's "net debts outstanding" from that election. 11 C.F.R. § 110.1 (b)(3)(i). Thus, the Udall Committee could have accepted contributions for the primary election after June 2, 1998, to the extent that such contributions were necessary to fully retire its outstanding debt from these election.

As explained in the Declaration of Charles E. Harple (attached hereto as Exhibit A).

DRIVE was approached in July 1998 by a representative of the Udall Committee. The Udall

Committee representative informed DRIVE that the Udall Committee was soliciting

contributions for the purpose of retiring its 1998 primary election debt. Harple Dec., ¶ 2.

Based on that solicitation, DRIVE decided to make a contribution in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Harple Dec., ¶ 3. The check is dated August 26, 1998, and is specifically identified as being for "primary debt reduction." A copy of the check is attached as Exhibit I to Mr. Harple's Declaration. At the time of that solicitation and subsequent contribution, DRIVE was not aware of any report submitted to the Federal Election Commission by the Udall Committee that indicated the latter committee had not accrued debt in connection with its 1998 primary election. Harple Dec., ¶ 4.

DRIVE has learned from the Complaint herein that the Udall Committee had filed a mid-year report with the Federal Election Commission reporting that the Udall Committee did DRIVE's and Mr. Sever's Response to Complaint - Page 2

not have net debts outstanding from the 1998 primary election. See Harple Dec. ¶ 5.

However, DRIVE has now learned that the Udall Committee amended its report to the Federal Election Commission to accurately disclose that, consistent with the solicitation made to DRIVE, the Udall Committee did, indeed, have net debts outstanding at the time it solicited and accepted DRIVE's contribution towards its 1998 primary election debt. Harple Dec. ¶ 6.

Therefore, the Complaint erroneously alleges that the Udall Committee did not have net debts outstanding from the 1998 primary toward which DRIVE could make a contribution to retire. For these reasons, DRIVE respectfully requests that the Commission dismiss the matter under review as to it.

Respectfully submitted this 4th day of December, 1998.

BIRAND, LOWELL & RYAN, P.C. (A Professional Corporation)

Stanley M. Brand

D.C. Bar No. 213082

David E. Frulla

D.C. Bar No. 414170

923 15th Street N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20005

(202) 662-9700

Counsel for Respondents DRIVE and Sever

## DECLARATION OF CHARLES E. HAMPLE

I, Charles E. Harple, do hereby declare and state as follows:

- I am a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Government Affairs
  Department ("IBT"). I also conduct activity on behalf of the IBT's separate segregated fund, the Democratic Republican Independent Votes Education Fund ("DRIVE") and make the following declaration based on my own personal knowledge gained in these capacities.
- 2. In July 1998, DRIVE was approached by a representative from the Udali for Us All Campaign Committee ("Udali Committee"). The Udali Committee representative informed DRIVE that the Udali Committee accrued debt during the 1998 primary election and solicited a contribution from DRIVE for the purpose of retiring that debt.
- 3. DRIVE contributed \$5,000.00 to the Udall Committee for the purpose of setting debt associated with the 1998 primary campaign. A true and accurate copy of the check is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.
- 4. At the time of that solicitation and subsequent contribution, DRIVE was not aware of any report submitted to the Federal Election Commission by the Udali Committee that indicated the Committee had not accrued debt in connection with its 1998 primary election.
- 5. It was not until DRIVE reviewed the instant complaint that it learned that the Udali Committee did, in fact, file an erroneous report with the Federal Election Commission indicating that it was not indebted from the 1998 primary election.
- 6. The Udall Committee has since amended the relevant report to the Federal Election Commission and accurately disclosed its debt from the 1998 primary election at the time the instant solicitation and contribution were made. A true and accurate copy of the Udall Committee's amended report to the Federal Election Commission is attached hereto as Exhibit 2.

Further Declarant sayeth not.

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I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Marles E. Harple

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Dalle:

Date:

Date:

Date

By:

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Department Approval:

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Otabber 30, 1988

Rubin Kelly Frideral Elections Commission MINE. STOM NW Washington, DC 20453

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Dear Rebit

That letter is to follow up on our conveneedon this morning should now to peach primary dabt on the FEC report.

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Thus, the curricipa's total primary disk was \$51,820.25. "This arround was reduced to \$53,603.2% as a result of a \$14,025.00 rightlif from one of its orthogry vendors. To date, this campeign has received \$69,800,00 toward payment of its primary class. Leaving a dead as of this date of \$20,403.25.

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